

Annapolis, Md. March 22, 1906.

At the request of the Joint Special Committee in the matter of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland met that body in conference at 3.30 p.m., this date, in the Old Senate Chamber, in the State Capital at Annapolis.

There were present:

Of the Board of Public Works: Governor Warfield, Comptroller Atkinson, Treasurer Vandiver;

Of the Joint Special Committee: Speaker Benson of the House of Delegates, Chairman of the Joint Special Committee; President Seth of the Senate; Senators Gorman, Baker, Lee, Perkins, and Delegates Murphy, Dorton, Ray, Goodwin and Fenton;

Of Counsel to the Joint Special Committee: Attorney-General Bryan, Messrs. Straus and Poe.

The Joint Special Committee proceeded to discuss in the presence of the Board of Public Works the course to be pursued by the Committee in the future.

Mr. Dorton moved that the Special Committee proceed immediately to a conference with the Board of Public Works, looking to a sale of the State's interest in the Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which was carried by a vote of ten to one; Senator Lee voting in the negative, and holding out for further investigation.

Chairman Benson stated to the members of the Board of Public Works that the reason for asking the Board to a conference with the Committee was that they might discuss the legislation necessary to effect the sale.

Mr. Straus stated that, at the instance of Senator Gorman, he had prepared a bill for approval by the Attorney-General, and then for introduction in the Senate to-night.

The Attorney-General stated that he had gone over the measure and approved the same.

Governor Warfield requested that the Committee furnish the Board of Public Works with a full copy of the proceedings of the Committee, and the testimony taken by it, for the reference of the Board. On motion of Mr. Murphy, it was so ordered.

The Secretary, Mr. Murphy, then read the bill prepared by Mr.

Straus at the request of Mr. Gorman, and Attorney-General Bryan and Mr. Straus explained the intent of the measure.

Mr. Goodwin moved that the bill be accepted by the Committee, and that it be introduced and an effort made by the Committee to have it put through both Houses under a suspension of the rules, which was adopted.

The Board of Public Works here withdrew for a few minutes for a private conference. When they returned, the Governor, as Chairman of the Board, stated that that body had just decided at its informal conference to advertise the State's holdings in the Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for sale; the bids to be opened in the Executive office in Annapolis, on Wednesday, March 28th, at noon.

The conference here adjourned at 4.20 p.m.; the Board of Public Works proceeding to the Executive Office for a formal meeting, and the Joint Special Committee continuing in session.

(R. S. Hart)

Acting Secretary.

*Cornald Tilghman*